



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe, medical care.

VOLUME 165
SECOND QUARTER 2023

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EDITOR'S SPOTLIGHT

Emmalee Ross
Designer & Editor in Chief

In this edition of Medical Board of California (Board) News, we complete our three-part series of ***“What to Expect if A Complaint is Filed Against You”*** where we talk about filed accusations, stipulated settlements, administrative hearings, and appeals. Learn the ins and outs of the enforcement process if a complaint is filed against you.

In May, the Board held its Quarterly Board Meeting and highlighted the Board's revisions to the Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain. The Board held thoughtful discussion with input from Board members, stakeholders, and the public, concluding with a plan of action to move forward and publish the guidelines. Learn more on **page 6**.

Lastly, the CURES biennial fee decreases for licenses expiring on or after July 1, 2023, details on **page 10**.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS

A Publication of the Medical Board of California

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The Medical Board of California News is typically published four times per year by the Medical Board of California.

All editions are made available on the Board's website at:

www.mbc.ca.gov

Newsletter submissions are welcome, but all submissions become property of the Board and are subject to editing.

The Board's Mission

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect healthcare consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied healthcare professionals; and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing and regulatory functions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Second Quarter 2023

Summer is in full swing, and with that, the Medical Board of California (Board) has been busy with Sunset Review, transitioning Physician's & Surgeon's License applications to electronic only, preparing for the next Board meeting, which will be held in Bakersfield, appointing a new executive director, saying farewell to a Board member, and welcoming a new member to the Board.



The Board is holding its August meeting in Bakersfield, at the request of patient advocates. This meeting will feature discussions on maternal health issues. Please mark your calendars for August 24-25, 2023, details forthcoming. To receive the meeting agenda, once posted, you may [subscribe](#) to the "Board and Committee Meetings" list.


Additionally, the Board's Sunset Bill, Senate Bill 815 (Roth), is progressing through the California State Legislature. You can read more about this bill on [page 19](#).

On June 1, the Board stopped accepting paper applications for the Physician's & Surgeon's License. Except under limited circumstances, paper applications submitted on or after June 1, 2023, will not be processed and the Board will notify the applicant they must apply through the [BreEZe online system](#). Learn more about the Board's transition to electronic applications on [page 10](#).

The Board recently welcomed its newest executive director, Mr. Reji Varghese. Mr. Varghese brings over 30 years of medical regulatory experience and served the Board as deputy director since August 2020. Read more on [page 8](#).

Finally, please join me in welcoming David Lee to the Board. Mr. Lee will be taking the place of Board Member David Ryu, whose term ended May 31, 2023. Mr. Lee was appointed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, and his term will end June 1, 2027. Thank you, Mr. Ryu, for your service to the Board.

Kristina D. Lawson



“We are
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pain is not
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Dr. Richard Thorp



Dr. Richard Thorp

MBC PUBLISHES REVISIONS TO GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PAIN

By Emmalee Ross, Public Information Officer

After an 18-month stakeholder driven process, with numerous comments from patients, patient advocates, and those within the medical community, the Medical Board of California (Board) published its revised **Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain**.

“We are trying to create an environment in California where chronic intractable pain is not a curse,” said Board Member Dr. Richard Thorp, who presented the revised guidelines at the **May 2023 Quarterly Board Meeting**.

Last updated and released in 2014, the Board created a taskforce and began the process to revise the guidelines in January 2021 – holding two interested parties’ meetings with the public in **July** and **November** of 2022 to garner feedback.

As the Board discussed the need to update the 2014 prescribing guidelines, it was emphasized that a change in tone was necessary to provide support and guidance to physicians to prescribe in a way

that is effective for their patients and to also have enough flexibility to deal with pain patients that don’t fall into the normal guidelines.

Dr. Sean Mackey, professor and chief of the Stanford University Division of Pain Medicine, serves as a senior advisor for the Board’s taskforce and endorsed the revision of guidelines brought forward by the Board.

“I’m a physician scientist, I care for people suffering from chronic pain, many who have intractable pain,” said Dr. Mackey, in a letter read at the May board meeting. “Our motivation for revising this document was to learn from the lessons in the past and make it better.”

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released their opioid guidelines, which Dr. Mackey noted resulted in untreated and undertreated pain, serious withdrawal symptoms, worsening pain outcomes, psychological distress, overdose through use of illegal drugs, and suicide.

PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

“We recognize the need to ensure patient access to safe and effective pain management treatment, and at the same time, the need to support physicians providing treatment for people with chronic pain,” said Dr. Mackey, who has spent more than 20 years researching pain to develop safe and effective treatments.

The Board recognizes the need to ensure patients have access to safe and effective pain management treatment and, at the same time, also recognizes the need to support physicians providing treatment to this patient population. Consequently, the guidelines were updated to provide a framework for clinician use while also encouraging the

development of treatment plans customized for their patients.

The guidelines do not replace a physician’s clinical judgment and individualized, patient-centered decision-making.

The guidelines include discussions on recommended practices for the management of patients with pain, special patient populations, and compliance with controlled substance laws.

The Board looks forward to working with stakeholders to promote knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the new guidelines.

Please email the Board at PrescribingGuidelines@mbc.ca.gov with any questions or comments about the updated guidelines.



MBC APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*By Emmalee Ross
Public Information Officer*

On June 23, 2023, Mr. Reji Varghese (pronounced Var-Geese) was sworn in as the executive director of the Medical Board of California (Board).

“For nearly the last three years, Mr. Varghese has been dedicated to serving the Board and California’s healthcare consumers,” said Board President Kristina D. Lawson. “I look forward to continued collaboration with him to further our investments into the Board’s vital public protection work.”

Mr. Varghese has more than 30 years of medical regulatory experience and first joined the Board as deputy director in August 2020. He was appointed by the Board as interim executive director in February 2023.

“I am incredibly grateful for the Board’s confidence in my leadership and look forward to continuing my service, now as the executive director,” said Varghese. “I’m excited to continue to build upon my recent work at the Board to uphold and further our mission of consumer protection on behalf of the great state of California.”

EXPERT REVIEWERS NEEDED

If you live and have a full-time active practice in California, apply to be an Expert Reviewer for MBC.

HISTORY

The Medical Board of California (Board) established its Expert Reviewer Program in July 1994 as an impartial and professional means to support its investigation and enforcement functions. Expert Reviewers (Experts) assist the Board by providing reviews and opinions on board cases and conducting medical and psychiatric evaluations.

REQUIREMENTS

Actively practicing physicians from all other specialties not listed are also welcome to apply and participate in the program. Physicians must be board certified, have been practicing their specialty for a minimum of three years after board certification, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

MIDWIVES

The Board also needs midwife expert reviewers throughout the state of California. Licensed midwives must have an active midwifery practice for the past two years, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

CONTACT

For more information regarding compensation and how to apply, contact us at (916) 561-8216, visit our [website](#), or e-mail the Board's Expert Program at MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov.

The Board is looking for experts in the following specialties:

- Addiction Medicine with added certification in Family or Internal or Psychiatry
- Cardiology
- Clinical Genetics
- Colon/Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Interventional Cardiology
- Midwife Reviewer
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (with added expertise in Gynecologic Oncology)
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatric Endocrinology
- Pathology (preferably from the following counties: Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura)
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
- Pediatric Critical Care
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry (Forensic and Addiction)
- Radiation Oncology
- Surgery (General and Endocrine Surgery)
- Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery
- Urology (General and Gender Reassignment)
- Vascular Surgery

MBC'S LICENSING PROGRAM GOES PAPERLESS

Beginning June 1, 2023, the Medical Board of California (Board) no longer accepts or processes paper-based applications for a Physician's and Surgeon's (P&S) License.

The switch to a paperless application process helps both applicants and the Board by increasing the efficiency of the review process, enhancing security, and reducing costs and impact to the environment.

For more information on how to submit your application through BreEZe, see [How to Apply for a Physician's and Surgeon's License](#).

REMINDER

As mentioned [last edition](#), effective February 1, 2023, the Board no longer accepts and processes paper application forms for the Postgraduate Training License and the Application to Transition from a Postgraduate Training License to a P&S License.

Applications postmarked on or after February 1, 2023, will be mailed back to the applicant along with any payment received.

For more information, please visit the [Board's Licensing webpage](#).



WEBINAR ALERT! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF APPLYING FOR YOUR LICENSE

If you're applying for your Postgraduate Training License or Physician's and Surgeon's License, check out the [Medical Board of California's \(Board\) webinar](#) on license and application details and requirements.

The Board's Chief of Licensing, Marina O'Connor, covers everything you'll need to know when applying for your license.

CURES FEE DECREASE

The biennial fee charged to maintain CURES will decrease from \$22 to \$18 for licenses expiring on or after July 1, 2023, per [Assembly Bill 3330](#). Please refer to your renewal notice for the amount due.

IF A COMPLAINT IS FILED AGAINST YOU – PART THREE

By Emmalee Ross, Public Information Officer

Editor's Note: Part One of Three of “What to Expect if a Complaint is Filed Against You” was published in the **2022 Fourth Quarter Edition** detailing the first steps for a physician after a complaint is filed, and Part Two of Three was published in the **2023 First Quarter Edition** covering the investigation stage.

The Medical Board of California's (Board) goal in the disciplinary process is first and foremost consumer protection. Whenever possible, and consistent with consumer protection, the Board will attempt to rehabilitate the licensee so they may correct any issues in their performance.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

After the investigation stage, if there is clear and convincing evidence that you, the subject physician, have violated the Medical Practice Act, the case is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to prepare an accusation (a legal document listing the charges and/or the sections of law allegedly violated).

After an accusation is filed, a hearing may be scheduled, and you may need to appear before an administrative law judge (ALJ). However, during pre-hearing conferences, if a stipulated settlement of the charges or penalty is accepted by both parties, and adopted by a panel of the Board as its decision, the hearing is not necessary.



Note: If criminal violations are suspected, the case will be referred to a local district attorney's office for prosecution.

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT

Most disciplinary actions are determined through a stipulated settlement, which is an agreement between the subject physician and the Board on appropriate discipline. Like with other types of legal settlements, reaching a settlement reduces the amount of time and cost involved to both parties. Settlements allow the Board to put consumer protections and physician rehabilitation measures into place more quickly.

If settlement is possible, it will first be negotiated between the representatives of the Board and the subject physician. Before it can be final, however, it must be approved by a panel of Board members. Once approved, the settlement terms are final and the subject physician waives their right to appeal the decision.



ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

As the subject physician, you are entitled to dispute the charges at an administrative hearing. The request for a hearing may be done by delivering or mailing a “Notice of Defense” to both the deputy attorney general and the Board. For specific information when completing a Notice of Defense, please visit the Board’s [*Disciplinary Process* webpage](#).

Note: If a Notice of Defense is not received, it is presumed you have waived your right to contest the accusation, and the Board will act on the accusation without a hearing, taking action as permitted under the law.

The hearing resembles a court trial and is heard by an ALJ who drafts a proposed decision. The proposed decision is sent to a panel of the Board who can adopt the decision as proposed, reduce the penalty and adopt the decision, or non-adopt the decision, and set the matter for oral argument in front of the panel of Board members assigned to the case. Following the hearing after non-adoption, the panel of the Board will issue a decision after non-adoption and may adopt the proposed decision as written, reduce the penalty proposed by the ALJ, or increase the penalty proposed by the ALJ.

Depending on the case, and ensuring public protection, disciplinary actions range from a public reprimand to revocation of a license.



APPEAL

After a decision proposed by an ALJ is adopted by the Board panel, you may petition the Board for reconsideration before the effective date of the decision, which is typically 30 days after the order is issued.

If you disagree with the Board's decision on a case that went to hearing before an ALJ, you may file an appeal called a writ of mandate in Superior Court.

PENALTY RELIEF

You may petition the Board for reinstatement of a revoked license or surrendered license, or seek to modify the terms of your probation, or terminate your probation early pursuant to ***Business and Professions Code section 2307***, if you meet the requirements for penalty relief.

YOU MAY PETITION THE BOARD FOR REINSTATEMENT OF A REVOKED LICENSE OR SURRENDERED LICENSE, OR SEEK TO MODIFY THE TERMS OF YOUR PROBATION, OR TERMINATE YOUR PROBATION EARLY.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, 502 cases were referred to the AGO, and 19 cases were referred for criminal action. For more details, please see the Board's ***2021-2022 Annual Report***.

The Board's Manual of Model Disciplinary Order and Disciplinary Guidelines are non-binding standards that the Board considers when determining the discipline for a physician. Based upon the evidence available in the case, the Board will deviate from the recommendations in the guidelines to tailor discipline appropriate to the circumstances.

If you have questions, please email us at ***complaint@mbc.ca.gov*** or call us at 800-633-2322.

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LINKS TO OUR WEBSITE

Update your address of record or email address.

Update your physician survey.

Sign up for email subscriber alerts.

Contact us:

webmaster@mbc.ca.gov

THE BOARD'S MISSION

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect healthcare consumers and prevent harm through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied healthcare professionals, and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing, policy, and regulatory functions.

NEED A SPEAKER?

If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California, please contact us at ***webmaster@mbc.ca.gov***.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the Board's newsletter.

Do you have a particular section that you like, or an idea on how to improve our publication?

Click the link below to take the survey.

Medical Board of California News Survey



CASES OF BABIES BORN WITH CONGENITAL SYPHILIS SOAR IN CALIFORNIA

*By The American Academy of Pediatrics,
California Chapter 3*

The number of California babies born with congenital syphilis is increasing rapidly, reaching rates not seen in nearly three decades. This growing number of cases brings along a 40 percent risk for infant death or life-long health problems.

The good news, however, is that syphilis is treatable and curable during pregnancy and is 100 percent preventable.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3) and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) are working together to raise awareness of congenital syphilis prevention through funding provided by the **California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) STD Control Branch**.

"Preventing congenital syphilis is the best treatment option available to bring these astronomical rates down," Dr. Richard Silva, San Diego Newborn Hospitalist, said. "We recently treated an infant with congenital syphilis who was very sick at birth and required care in our neonatal intensive care unit for weeks. The only way to prevent congenital syphilis and protect newborns is by screening all pregnant people and appropriately treating those who are infected."

GET TESTED

To prevent congenital syphilis, anyone who is pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant should get tested for syphilis. California and national guidelines recommend syphilis testing at least twice during pregnancy: 1) at the first prenatal visit and 2) early in the third trimester (between 28-32 weeks). Additional testing may also be recommended at delivery.

GET TREATED

Syphilis can be treated and cured with antibiotics, even during pregnancy. Sexual partners should also be tested and treated to prevent reinfection and avoid infecting others.

KNOW THE RISKS

Congenital syphilis can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity, low birth weight and death shortly after birth. If a baby is born with syphilis and survives delivery, they can have deformed bones, severe anemia, enlarged liver and spleen, jaundice, brain and nerve problems such as blindness or deafness, meningitis and/or skin rashes.

“The increase in congenital syphilis cases is extremely alarming, especially because it is completely preventable, and syphilis is curable,” AAP-CA3 Project Director Tara Milbrand said. “We work to care for all children within San Diego County, and so often that means caring for the family as a whole unit. In the instance of congenital syphilis, we must show pregnant people we care about their health in addition to the health of their children.”


AAP-CA3 recently launched a website with **information and resources** for the community and healthcare providers. Free, educational materials and guidelines are available, as well as information on local testing sites. More information can also be found on **CDPH's Congenital Syphilis webpage**.



YOU ASKED FOR IT

QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE WEB

By Alexandria Schembra, Public Information Analyst



Q: I recently submitted all the required paperwork for my license application. It's been more than a month since I have heard anything, and I don't know who to contact. How can I get an update on the license application?

A: Due to high application volume, please allow approximately 130 days for the initial review of an application. Application processing times may change depending on application volume. Once your application is reviewed, you will be notified by email of any deficiencies. In addition, please allow 15 business days for Board staff to review all supporting documents received after the initial review has been conducted. All applications and supporting documents are reviewed in the date order received unless you qualify and have been approved for an **expedited review**.

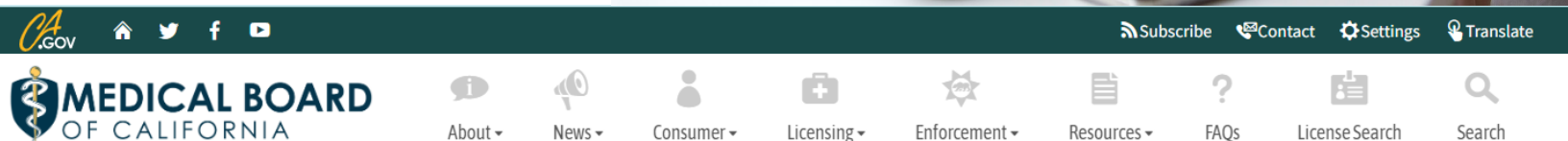
To check the status of your initial license application, please log into your **BreEZe account**. Once the application has been reviewed, the deficiencies are identified and updated by staff. Please refer to the Board's **BreEZe Resources Center webpage** for more information on creating a BreEZe account and how to access the BreEZe system.

Currently, the Medical Board of California (Board) is unable to respond to requests for application status updates and to confirm receipt of documents. Documents submitted through **BreEZe** or the **Direct Online Certification Submission portal** are immediately received by the Board. If you wish to confirm receipt of a mailed document, please use a mail tracking service.

VALUABLE RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

By Emmalee Ross
Public Information Officer

CONSUMER CORNER



As a healthcare consumer, have you ever wondered about your doctor's license? Or wanted to know how to file a complaint?

Maybe you've been curious about the number of physicians disciplined by the Board last year, or the number of physicians in your county.

Whether you're looking for tips on choosing the right doctor, or information on how to track down your medical records, we're here to help.

The Medical Board of California (Board) offers valuable resources to its consumers through its website.

When logging on to www.mbc.ca.gov, you will see a white banner at the top of the page which contains important features for locating applicable information.

If the subject you're looking for does not seem straightforward, using the "Search" tab can help pinpoint responses. Type in the keyword, and you'll be provided with a list of helpful webpages.

On the banner, you'll also see a "[Consumer](#)" tab. Here you'll find information on the complaint review process, what type of complaints are under the Board's jurisdiction, and how to file a complaint.

An important feature for consumers is the “**Resources**” tab which provides forms, publications, brochures, medical resources, and more.

Below are some resources consumers may find helpful:

- **Publications**
 - **Annual Report**
 - **Disciplinary Actions/ License Alerts**
- **Brochures**
 - **Be An Informed Patient, Check Up on Your Doctor’s License**
 - **A Consumer’s Guide to the Complaint Process**
 - **Don’t Wait, File a Complaint!**
 - **Questions and Answers about Investigations**
- **Medical Resources**
 - **Choosing a New Doctor**
 - **Medical Spas**
 - **Patient Access to Medical Records**
 - **Telehealth**
- **Statistics**
 - **Average/median time to process complaints**
 - **Complaints/ Investigations Statistics**
 - **Physician and Surgeon Licenses by County**

Another helpful tool is the “**License Search**” tab, where you’ll find the Board’s **License Verification webpage**. Here you can search for your doctor by **name or license number** to see their public profile which will tell you if their license is renewed and current, delinquent, expired, or if they’ve had any discipline.

You can also keep track of your doctor’s license through the **Board’s mobile app** by searching for your doctor’s license, “following” your doctor, and receiving license alert notifications if any administrative action is taken or enforcement documents are added to their public profile.

Lastly, a hidden treasure of information for consumers is the “**FAQs**” tab. Under “select a topic,” you will see list of options for consumers including, complaints and investigations, general office practices/protocols, medical records, and more.

If you’d like to **contact** the Board, follow us on social media, or **subscribe to email alerts**, you can do so at the top of the Board’s webpage.

Can’t find what you’re looking for, or need assistance accessing information? Contact us at **webmaster@mbc.ca.gov**.



MEDICAL BOARD PROGRESSES THROUGH SUNSET REVIEW

By Aaron Bone
Chief of Legislation & Public Affairs

This year, the Board has been going through the Sunset Review process, which provides the California State Legislature and various other stakeholders the opportunity to discuss and propose various statutory changes to further the Board's consumer protection mission. The Board's last Sunset Review was in 2021 and led to several *law changes*.

To start the Sunset Review process, the Board submits a *Sunset Review Report* to the Legislature, which details the Board's activities since the prior Sunset Review. Importantly, the report offers the Board the opportunity to request law changes (see Section 12 of the report). that will help the Board more effectively protect consumers. This is followed by a public legislative hearing to discuss concerns and questions raised by legislators; this year's hearing was held on *Friday, March 16*.

Currently, the Legislature is considering what new laws will be enacted. The Board's top two priorities are to address its ongoing financial challenges by increasing fees and the size of its reserve fund, and to improve communication with the public about its role and functions. You may read through the details of the proposed law in *Senate Bill 815*.

The bill was approved by the State Senate on May 31 and is now under consideration by the State Assembly. The Legislature has until September 14 to approve legislation this year.





www.cdph.ca.gov/NBS

SIGN UP!

FOR THE CALIFORNIA NEWBORN SCREENING NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is currently published twice a year and will soon be digital only. **Sign up today** to access future newsletters.

WEBINAR ALERT

CA NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM AND PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Please join the California Newborn Screening Program and Provider Responsibilities **webinar** on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM. This webinar will present an overview of the California Newborn Screening Program process, its importance for infant health, key benefits, and the vital role of the provider. **Advanced registration is required.**

Continuing Medical Education credits will be offered. The Genetic Disease Screening Program designates this webinar/live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Each physician should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The Genetic Disease Screening Program is accredited by the California Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

SIGN UP!

NOVEMBER 2, 2023
5:00 PM- 6:00 PM (PST)
CME UNITS AVAILABLE



CENTRAL COMPLAINT UNIT MEDICAL CONSULTANTS NEEDED



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The Medical Board of California's (Board) Central Complaint Unit is accepting applications for the Medical Consultant Program.

Medical Consultants review complaints to determine whether a formal investigation by Board investigative staff is needed, or if the complaint can be resolved by a preliminary review of the medical records and a physician narrative statement.

Participating physicians are reimbursed \$75 per hour for record review and report preparation.

If you are interested, please contact **Therese Kelly** at (916) 263-2434 or **Hugo Estrada** at (916) 263-2463. The application and eligibility requirements are available from our **website**.

While all specialties are welcome to apply, the Board is in need of physicians with the specialties below:

- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Gastroenterology
- Medical Oncology
- Neurological Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pain Medicine
- Urology

IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION BRANCH

*By California Department of Public
Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Branch*

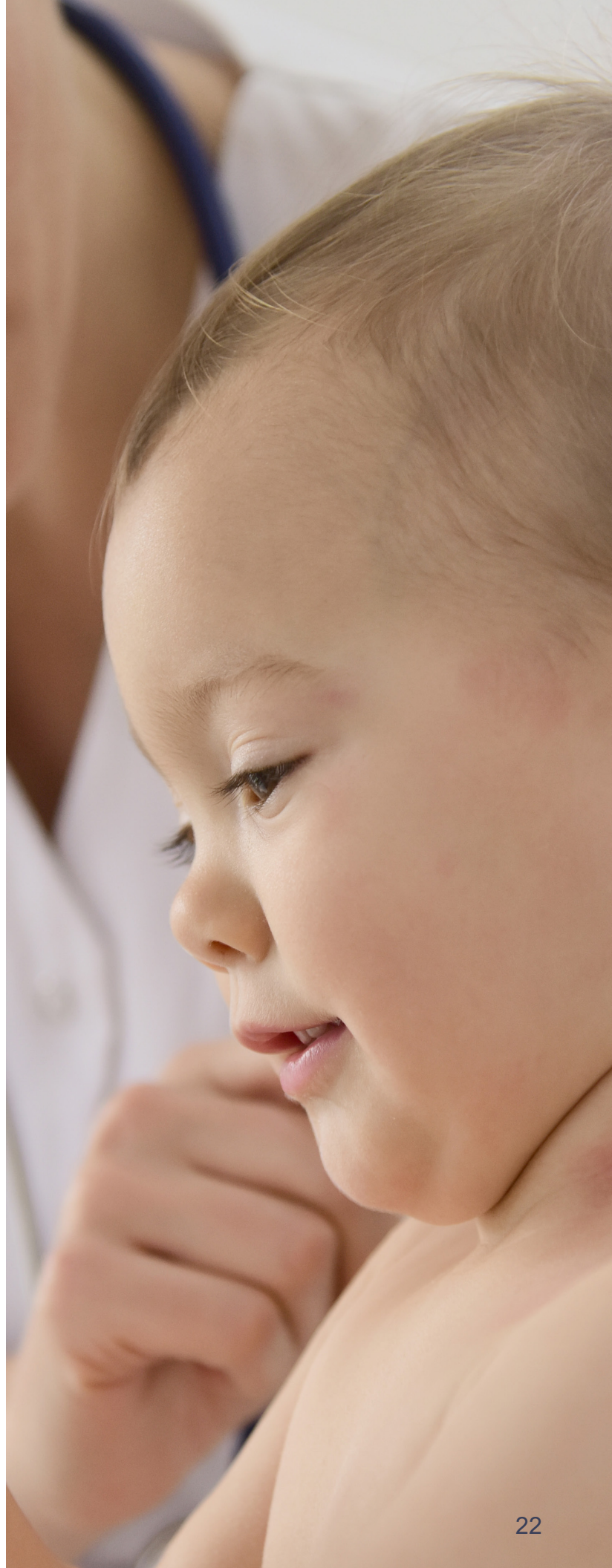
Changes in Laboratory Reporting Requirements For Blood Lead Testing Results

Beginning July 1, 2023, **Assembly Bill 2326** changes requirements for laboratories reporting blood lead test results in California.

These changes apply to all laboratories including point-of-care blood lead testing laboratories in California healthcare provider offices.

Reporting Timeframes:

- Blood lead test results greater than or equal to the most recent US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Blood Lead Reference Value (BLRV) of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) are required to be reported **within 3 working days of analysis**.
- If the result is less than the CDC BLRV, the result is required to be reported within 30 calendar days of analysis.



Required Reporting Information:

A laboratory that performs a blood lead analysis on a specimen of human blood drawn in California is required to report the information specified below to the **California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Electronic Blood Lead Reporting System** for each analysis on every person tested.

- The test results in micrograms of lead per deciliter.
- The name of the person tested.
- The person's birth date.
- The person's address, including the ZIP Code, and telephone number.
- The name, address, telephone number, and National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the health care provider that ordered the analysis.
- The name, address, telephone number, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) number, and NPI of the analyzing laboratory.
- The accession number of the specimen.
- The date the analysis was performed.
- The person's Medi-Cal client identification number (CIN) or, for other health plans, the name of the health plan and the medical plan identification number.
- The person's sex.
- The person's race and ethnicity.
- The person's pregnancy status.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the person's employer, if any.
- The date the specimen was drawn.
- The source of the specimen, specified as venous, capillary, arterial, cord blood, or other.
- The name, address, telephone number, and CLIA number of the referring laboratory, if any.
- The testing methodology used for blood lead analysis specified as point of care, inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry, graphite furnace atomic spectroscopy, or other.

Pediatric Skin Cream Recalled by US Food and Drug Administration

On February 1, 2023, Diep Bao Cream was recalled by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Several cases of children with elevated blood lead were noted after using the cream, which is sold locally and online through Facebook. More information is available in the **FDA's Company Announcement** regarding the recall.



Physicians should encourage parents to stop using this product and dispose of it immediately. Consumers with questions can contact the company at **shopemeca91@gmail.com**.

Consider **testing children for lead exposure** from this product and other lead sources.

New Educational Information on Lead in Aviation Gas

Leaded gasoline was eliminated in the 1990s for on-road vehicles but is still commonly used by small piston-engine (propeller or rotary) aircraft and is the last transportation fuel containing lead in the US. The product is called aviation gas, aka "avgas." Lead dust from these emissions can be found in neighborhoods around airports, settling on soil and other objects that people may touch.

Learn more and how to keep your family safe on CDPH's **Lead in Aviation Gas webpage**.

Lead Week Information: Save The Date

Lead Week is October 22-28, 2023. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch is focusing on lead air pollution (including from aviation gas), shooting ranges, and other sources. More to come!

EARN INCOME AND HELP CALIFORNIANS IN NEED BY BECOMING A QUALIFIED MEDICAL EVALUATOR

*By the State of California,
Division of Worker's
Compensation*



The California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is offering an examination for physicians interested in becoming Qualified Medical Evaluators (QME) certified by the state of California.

QMEs earn additional income while helping California's injured workers by performing disability evaluations on a part-time basis.

The exam will be held October 14, 2023, through October 21, 2023, at a Pearson VUE testing center. To help physicians prepare for the exam, DWC offers a **free study guide and examination book**, along with the **DWC's Physician's Guide**, to supplement the physician's professional experience. More information can be found the DWC's **Qualified Medical Evaluator webpage**.

QME reports are reimbursed in accordance with **Title 8 California Code of Regulations Section 9795**. Billing for the medical-legal report begins at \$2,015.00.

The QME exam's application and registration packet is available in August and can be downloaded from the **DWC website**.

For more information on becoming a QME, please visit the DWC's **FAQ webpage**. To stay informed about this opportunity and other DWC news, please sign up for the **DWC Newsline**. For additional questions, email DWC at qmetest@dir.ca.gov.

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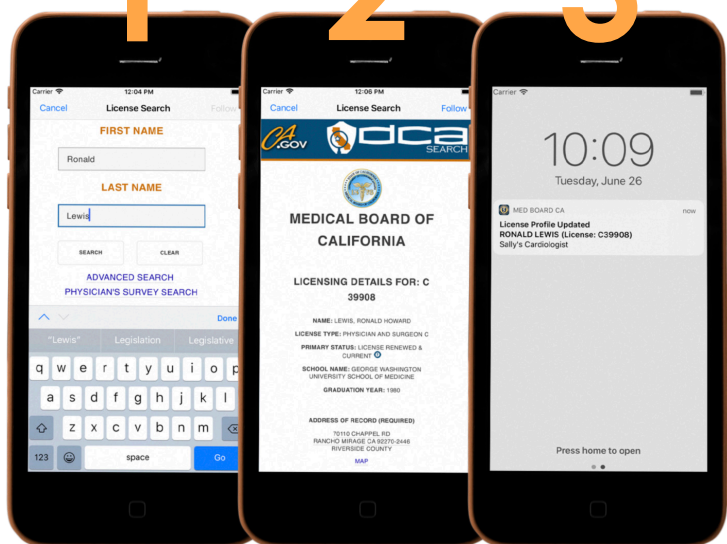
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ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – JANUARY 31, 2023

Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

“Effective date of decision” — Example: “March 14, 2020” at the bottom of the summary means the date the disciplinary decision goes into operation.

“Gross negligence” — An extreme deviation or departure from the standard of care.

“Incompetence” — Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

“Judicial review pending” — The disciplinary decision is being challenged through the court system, i.e., Superior Court, Court of Appeal, or State Supreme Court. The discipline is currently in effect.

“Probationary License” — A conditional license issued to an applicant with probationary terms and conditions. This is done when cause exists to deny the license application, but limitations can be put in place to protect the public.

“Public Letter of Reprimand” — A lesser form of discipline that can be negotiated after or in lieu of the filing of formal charges. The reprimand may include educational and clinical training requirements.

“Revoked” — The right to practice is ended due to disciplinary action. The license is invalidated, voided, annulled, or rescinded.

“Revoked, stayed, 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions, including 60 days suspension” — “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specified probationary terms and conditions which, in this example, includes 60 days of actual suspension from practice. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.

“Stipulated Decision or Settlement” — A form of plea bargaining. The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

“Surrender” — To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license — subject to acceptance by the Board.

“Suspension from practice” — The licensee is prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

ABRAMS, MATHIS (G 12119), LOS ANGELES, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligence acts, excessive prescribing of controlled substances, prescribing to an addict, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. December 13, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

AFGHAN, RAHIMA, M.D. (A 67257), CORONA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed, and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,000.00. January 12, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

AHO, CHRISTOPHER JAMES, M.D. (A 79102), WHITTIER, CA

No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely, and gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or

cultivate marijuana, except permitted to prescribe Norco, Oxycodone, Dilaudid, Flexeril, Robaxin, and Tramadol for post-operative patients when acting as the post-operative patient's primary surgeon, for up to sixty (60) days after surgery as well as order these medications for patients in the perioperative setting when acting as the patient's primary surgeon, and for patients with a diagnosed and documented claustrophobia or related condition who require medication before undergoing a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), is permitted to prescribe up to 1 milligram of Ativan for the patient's use before undergoing a MRI ordered by Dr. Aho; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed, and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; abstaining from the use of controlled substances; abstaining from the use of alcohol; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; notification of employer; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a worksite monitor; notification to patients of probation status; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$10,043.00. January 12, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

ALLEN, EVERETT DOUGLAS (G 54881), CRESCENT CITY, CA

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. December 1, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

ALTAMIRANO, JOSEPH RODERICK (G 63870), NEWPORT BEACH, CA

Convicted of one felony count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and one felony count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud. Revoked. January 5, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**ALUPAY, PEDRO SORIANO, M.D. (A 40750),
LA MIRADA, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$19,490.40. January 13, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ANDERSEN, JARON ROSS, M.D. (A 97202),
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course, a medical record keeping course, and a professionalism program (ethics course), and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$14,997.00. Public Reprimand. January 12, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ANDERSON, KATHY MIRZABOZORG
(G 78317), CORONA DEL MAR, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, violating statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. December 31, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**AYOUB, EDMUND, M.D. (A 104389),
PALM SPRINGS, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and

treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$20,346.25. January 5, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BABARAN, JOSELITO PONCE, M.D.
(A 51480), PORTER RANCH, CA**

Dr. Babaran made no admissions, but was charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients; excessively prescribed controlled substances to one patient; prescribed to an addict; and prescribed without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, for the first year of probation or until successfully completing a Clinical Competence Assessment Program, whichever occurs first, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; surrendering of DEA permit prior to practicing medicine; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed, and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$20,071.25. January 12, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BABUS, HOWARD ALLEN (G 33221),
SANTA BARBARA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient.

Surrender of License. December 27, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BEAUCLAIR, JOHN PATRICK, M.D.
(G 17614), LA CANADA, CA**

No admissions but charged with aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine; violating the laws regarding medical corporations; dishonest or corrupt acts; gross negligence; knowingly making or signing a document directly related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented an existence of a statement of facts; and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$9505.00.

November 10, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BERJIS, FARAZ FRANK (A 73092),
LAFAYETTE, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, sexual misconduct and sexual exploitation with one patient, and failing to attend and participate in an interview with the Board. Surrender of License.

January 19, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BHUIYA, AREF, M.D. (A 67793),
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA**

No admissions but charged with incompetence; repeated negligent acts; performed anesthesia in an outpatient surgery setting without being licensed, certified, or accredited; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on fifty-nine months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program;

obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$12,248.00. January 26, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BLUMENFELD, DORON (A 45201),
ENCINO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, sexual misconduct, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. December 15, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BROWN, BENNIE LEONARD (A 30405),
SACRAMENTO, CA**

Admitted to being convicted of one felony count of conspiracy, one felony count of aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, one felony count of perjury, one felony count of unemployment fraud, one felony count of filing a false tax return in 2013, one felony count of filing a false tax return with the intent to evade tax for 2013, and one felony count of filing a false amended tax return for 2013. Surrender of License. January 26, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BUSS, RICHARD FREDERICK (G 52995),
PINE GROVE, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. November 28, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CHEN, BRIDGET MERCY (A 66849),
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Admitted to having a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. January 27, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CONCEICAO, JOYCE, M.D. (A 183619),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Committed acts of unprofessional conduct and incompetence due to unusual circumstances that occurred during the training program

related to deficiencies in the six ACGME core competencies, that ultimately resulted in her being placed on probation; and a forced resignation from her program for failure to obtain a license by April 4, 2022. Probationary license issued, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; completing an ethics course; successfully completing the necessary credits with an ACGME-accredited postgraduate training to become eligible for Board certification in the chosen specialty prior to practicing outside of an ACGME-accredited postgraduate training program; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. December 19, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

DAVIS, WILLIAM FRANK, M.D. (G 69230), SANTA ANA, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for proceeding to surgery without fully performing a pre-operative work-up of additional possible etiologies of a patients' postprandial pain. December 29, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

DIAZ, TERESA LYNN, M.D. (A 88588), SACRAMENTO, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for providing permanent vaccine exemptions to all vaccines. December 5, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

EL-MENSHAWI, MOHAMED ALI, M.D. (A 183618), LOMA LINDA, CA

Committed acts of unprofessional conduct, has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely, and used drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Probationary license issued, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, notification of employer; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a

worksite monitor; abstaining from the use of controlled substances; abstaining from the use of alcohol; attending psychotherapy; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. December 19, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

EMAMZADEHFARD, SAHRA (A 179116), FRESNO, CA

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of her Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. November 9, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

EVANS, TIMOTHY KANG, M.D. (A 183582), SAN DIEGO, CA

Committed acts of unprofessional conduct and dishonesty by disclosing on his application that he was placed on probation and had been disciplined or placed under investigation during his training program for accessing the record of his then girlfriend on two separate occasions, without her consent. Probationary license issued, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. December 13, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

FITZPATRICK, DALE WALTER (G 65940), MODESTO, CA

Admitted to gross negligence, repeated negligence acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. January 6, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GIBSON, GERALD PATRICK (A 61098), DALLAS, TX

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. January 31, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**GINGERICH, SHELDON EARL (G 53642),
TUCSON, AZ**

Admitted to being convicted of two misdemeanor counts of aiding and abetting simple possession of a controlled substance. Surrender of License. January 26, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**GLATT, WILLIAM (G 15309),
BURLINGAME, CA**

Admitted to gross negligence, repeated negligence acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Surrender of License. January 2, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**GUICE, MICHAEL JAMES, M.D. (G 33573),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for improperly prescribing Methotrexate to a patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course and a medical recording keeping course. January 20, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**HALL, SUSAN JANE PERRY, M.D. (A 76766),
TEHACHAPI, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from providing care and treatment to patients under sixty (60) days of age; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,858.75. December 30, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**HAMBLIN, BASIL COLIN, M.D. (A 76893),
POINT REYES STATION, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate

and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$19,740.00. Public Reprimand. November 17, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**HAU, BENNY, M.D. (G 74902),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$36,495.25. January 13, 2023.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**HODNETT, RICHARD MCINNIS, M.D.
(C 51707), THOUSAND OAKS, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course (Condition Satisfied) and an Ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,208.75. January 5, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**HOROWITZ, KIM JEFFERY, M.D. (A 42396),
TEHACHAPI, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course and a medical recording keeping course; and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation

and enforcement in the amount of \$5,300.00.
Public Reprimand. December 29, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ISOLANI, FRANCESCO GIUSEPPE, M.D.
(G 85394), BERKELEY, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for lack of treatment of hyperkalemia and not continuing medications as ordered. December 13, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ISPIRESCU, SCOTT DRAGOSH, M.D.
(A 63583), LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$17,820.25. January 13, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**JACOBSON, ERIC MICHAEL (G 36315),
MONTEREY, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. January 3, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KOCHUMIAN, MINAS (A 54808),
TARZANA, CA**

No admissions but charged with being convicted of one felony count of healthcare fraud. Surrender of License. December 13, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KOHAN, SID, M.D. (G 79439),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program; completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. January 20, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KRON, MICHAEL JOSHUA, M.D. (A 74089),
WALNUT CREEK, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for self-prescribing medications. January 17, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**LARSH, LONNA, M.D. (G 75442),
SANTA CRUZ, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care of one patient. Physician must complete a professionalism program (ethics course) and an education course; and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,091.00. Public Reprimand. December 2, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**LEE, LESTER LAWRENCE, M.D. (A 40840),
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; and repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing

any Schedule II controlled substances (this prohibition against possession does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Dr. Lee by another practitioner for a bona fide illness or condition), and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5,496.25. November 17, 2022.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**LEHFELDT, MAX RUDOLPH, M.D. (A 80511),
SOUTH PASADENA, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and failure to disclose financial interest. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,311.25. January 27, 2023.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**LOZANO, ANDREW (G 38738),
SAN JOSE, CA**

Committed acts of practicing medicine while license was suspended, dishonesty or corruption, violating statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, failing to comply with a request for medical records, failing to attend and participate in an interview with the Board, and unprofessional conduct. Revoked. January 17, 2023. [***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**MASE, SUNDARI R., M.D. (G 80521),
SANTA ROSA, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being arrested for a misdemeanor violation of VC 23152 (a)- DUI. December 5, 2022.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**MATTHEWS, OSCAR ANTONIO (A 24880),
VISTA, CA**

Admitted to repeated negligent acts, dishonest or corrupt acts, knowingly making or signing a document directly related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented an existence of a statement of facts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; unprofessional conduct; and having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. January 3, 2023.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**MISRA, ASHA, M.D. (A 36227),
NEWPORT BEACH, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for submitting vaccination exemption certificates without proper qualifications. January 23, 2023.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**NGUYEN, MINH HIEP, M.D. (A 98914),
CONCORD, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, unprofessional conduct, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,731.25. November 3, 2022.

[***View the decision and the order on the Board's website.***](#)

**OKEZIE, ONYINYE EUNICE, M.D. (A 93885),
BAKERSFIELD, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for issuing permanent exemptions for two patients with reactions that are not listed as a contraindication or precaution for future immunization from the MMR and DTaP vaccine. January 10, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**ORNEKIAN, VAHRAM, M.D. (A 169106),
BEVERLY HILLS, CA**

Convicted of driving with a blood alcohol content of .08% or more; and committed acts of using alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Public Reprimand. January 3, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**PEATROSS, JESSICA LAINE (C 139872),
ASHEVILLE, NC**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. November 18, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**PESSARAN, ALIREZA (A 89855),
CARMICHAEL, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. January 5, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**POPOV, ALEXANDER, M.D. (A 78244),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Reinstated, revoked, stayed, and placed on seven years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances; abstaining from the use of alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; notification of employer; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a worksite monitor; completing an education course and an ethics course; completing a clinical competence assessment program prior to practicing medicine; completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation prior to practicing

medicine; submitting to a psychiatric evaluation prior to practicing medicine; submitting to a medical evaluation and obtaining medical treatment prior to practicing medicine; obtaining a billing monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. November 14, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**PURCELL, DORIS SHUBNUM, M.D.
(A 72785), VACAVILLE, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence; repeated negligent acts; failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records; failing to consult the CURES database prior to prescribing, ordering, administering, or furnishing a controlled substance; and failing to make and/or keep a record documenting the prescribing of controlled substances in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on four (4) years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, thirty (30) days actual suspension from the practice of medicine to be completed between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed, and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,000.00. November 3, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**RAO, SEKHAR SURYADEVARA (A 93250),
AUSTIN, TX**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Texas based on a federal indictment alleging healthcare fraud, and being convicted of two counts of healthcare fraud. Surrender of License. January 17, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**REINER, MARC HOUSTON, M.D. (G 49887),
SAN DIEGO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and violated provisions of the Medical Practice Act in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances, except for those drugs listed in Schedule V, until Dr. Reiner submits certification of successful completion of a prescribing practices course, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,500.00. November 11, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

ROY, SUNIL A (A 40667), CHINO HILLS, CA

No admissions but charged with sexual misconduct, sexual exploitation, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, dishonest or corrupt acts, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. January 27, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SAGER, RONALD D, M.D. (C 25663),
CALABASAS, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records; failing to obtain proper informed consent; and improperly discontinuing the medications of a patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and a prescribing practices course. December 9, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SAVUR, VIVEK MANGESH (A 33689),
WEST HILLS, CA**

No admissions but charged with sexual exploitation, sexual misconduct, gross negligence, and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients; and unprofessional conduct. Surrender of License. December 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SERRANO, FELICIANO ANTONIO, M.D.
(A 88849), HUNTINGTON PARK, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient, and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from scheduling the performance of routine fistula grams, and from placing bare metal stents within a patient's fistula for dialysis access; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$13,366.25. January 13, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SHAPIRO, EILEEN SHELLY (C 43259),
OLYMPIC VALLEY, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, failing to attend and participate in an interview with the Board, failed to report her change of address, and unprofessional conduct. Revoked. December 2, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SPRAGUE, MARGARET MELINDA, M.D.
(G 56228), LA JOLLA, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of her Board-ordered probation. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstain from the use of controlled substances; abstain from the use of alcohol; submitting to biological

fluid testing; providing 10 hours of medical or nonmedical community service; completing an ethics course; attending psychotherapy; submitting to a medical evaluation and obtaining medical treatment; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. January 19, 2023.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SPRENGER, DAVID LEROY (G 87304),
ELK GROVE, CA**

No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. December 23, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**STEIN, PETER HAMILTON, M.D. (A 48620),
NOVATO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,977.50. Public Reprimand. January 12, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**THOMPSON, PATRICK SHANNON, M.D.
(G 45100), LAGUNA HILLS, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances as defined by Schedule II of the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act until successful completion of the Clinical Competence Assessment Program, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval

to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,435.00. January 5, 2023. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**TOURSARKISSIAN, KARIM M.D. (G 87408),
BANNING, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of three patients; repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, excessively prescribed controlled substances, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$14,270.00. November 10, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**TRAN, VINCENT (A 101551),
CHULA VISTA, CA**

No admissions but charged with dishonest or corrupt acts and unprofessional conduct. Surrender of License. December 14, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

VAID, ANUJ, M.D. (A 113786), DANVILLE, CA

Admitted to gross negligence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient; and unprofessional

conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, notifying patients of probation status; completing an education course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$10,561.25. December 30, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**VERHOEVE, PAUL EDWARD (A 45358),
EL CAJON, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. January 30, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**VIGOR, CAREY MARIE (G 43860),
SAINT CLAIR SHORES, MI**

Disciplined by Indiana for failing to undergo a Board-ordered examination to confirm her continuing fitness to practice medicine. Revoked. January 3, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**VIVIAN, MICHAEL ROLAND PUDE, M.D.
(G 78890), VENTURA, CA**

Reinstated, revoked, stayed, and placed on seven years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, submitting to a psychiatric evaluation prior to practicing medicine; abstaining from the use of controlled substances; abstaining from the use of alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a worksite monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; completing an ethics course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. January 23, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

WISNER, GARY ROYCE (A 41236), LODI, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Surrender of License. January 30, 2023. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**YASSA, NADINE HELMY, M.D. (A 48720),
ROSEVILLE, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, excessively prescribing controlled substances, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Public Reprimand. December 29, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

Department of Consumer Affairs
Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815-5401

MBC BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **August 23 – 25, 2023**; Double Tree Hotel, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308
 - **November 29 – December 2, 2023**; Location – TBD
- Please visit the Board's [Meetings webpage](#) for updates.

Contact Us:

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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Department of Consumer Affairs

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Business and Professions Code § 2021(b) and (c) require physicians to inform the Medical Board in writing of any name or address change. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Medical Board of California, Executive Director – Reji Varghese

Medical Board of California News – Second Quarter 2023 Edition

Contact us by email: webmaster@mbc.ca.gov